The Remarker

First United Methodist Church

A Place of Trust November-December, 2015 A Place to Become

Princeton, West Virginia

Church in the vof Princeton Volume 44, Issue 6

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Gratitude Sunday

Throughout the month of November, attendees at worship at Church in the Heart of Princeton will have the opportunity to think about and even write down – for their own prayer purposes – people, places and things that allow them to express gratitude towards God. In short, we are going to be counting our blessings all month!

On November 22nd, everyone will be given a card that will help them count the blessings God has given them financially and how they can best express their gratitude to God for those gifts through their giving to the local church. These cards will be returned during worship on November 29th in self-addressed envelopes. In January, we will mail the cards we receive back to those who brought them. (We will also mail new cards to those who did not bring one on the 29th, along with a letter of explanation.) **These envelopes will <u>NOT</u> be opened by the Church Office. They are going to be returned to you to be opened as a reminder of what you promised God!**

We are a congregation that wants to be a place where you can trust



and learn to grow your trust in Jesus and others. Our financial campaign this year will be based on the trust we have in our members to be gracious, faith-filled givers who tithe or move beyond tithing as God has called them. Most of all, we trust that your commitment that you will make to God will do more to grow your faith than a commitment that you make to your church.

This is a new way of doing our stewardship campaign, but we trust in the God who blesses us and in the people of God showing gratitude for those blessings!!

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<u>A Place of Trust</u>

Not Quite Home

Or "What I am currently reading and why I am reading it..."

A few days ago, on the recommendation of an author I trust, I picked up the book "The Bible Tells Me So...Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It" by Peter Enns. This is not my usual type of reading. I lean towards books on preaching, church growth and theology for my "professional" reading and science fiction or fantasy for pleasure. (However, I recently began reading some historical fiction, so who knows, maybe all my reading tastes are changing.)

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Church in the

A Place to Become

This book is about the Bible and our interpretation of it. For the most part, I thought I got most of the bugs in my system worked out during seminary when it came to understanding the "how" part of reading the Scripture. Hermeneutics is the big word that is used for describing the "way we go about understanding Scripture" – aka the principles of Biblical exegesis. (Those two words and three dollars will get you a cup of coffee at your local coffee shop.) Every person who tries to understand the words of Scripture uses some hermeneutic, some starting point and rules, for that understanding. There are many that claim that they read just the "plain words" but that gets tricky since very few of us read the original languages. There are others who claim more intellectual hermeneutics, but alas, they often box themselves in with the limits of science and our own ability to understand it. For the most part, I have always tried to be true to a "narrative" way of understanding Scripture. I know there is a bigger story that any part of Scripture is a part and I try to work those two stories together.

All that being said, and I am sure that it was more than your bargained for in this free newsletter, lately I have been struggling with some thoughts I have had about the first group of Jesus followers, you know, those people we call the disciples. It seems like every time I read about this group in the Gospels, they were struggling with understanding Scripture themselves. This was especially true when Jesus began talking about the "Messiah" and what that meant. The disciples were absolutely certain that they understood what the Messiah would be until Io and behold, the person they believed to be the Messiah was nailed to a cross by the very powers disciples thought Jesus would bring low and beholden. The disciples had it all wrong. And then the Messiah shows up as the one who conquered the real power of this world – sin and death – and the disciples still looked for Jesus to set up the new reign of power with Jesus and the, well, eleven.

Disciples, it seems, were always getting it wrong. It wasn't until Jesus really began explaining things, and the Holy Spirit came along to help, that they started getting things right. At that point, which would be well beyond the gospel accounts and into the book of Acts, guess what those same disciples set out to do? They started telling all the other religious people how wrong they were in their interpretations of Scripture, especially about the Messiah business and Jesus in particular. And guess what happened...the religious folk didn't buy it.

I was struggling with the disciples "being wrong" and religious people "being wrong" and I wondered: Is it possible that some of the battling going on over Scripture these days has something to do with people insisting they are right even when they could be wrong? Maybe. Maybe not. (How's that for stating an answer that can't be wrong!?!)

Anyway, it was into this thought that the Peter Enns book has entered my thinking and I must

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Director of Children's Ministries - Barbara Ballard Cell(304-920-8186) Office Hours: Mon. 9-19, 11:30—12:30 PM; Tues. 1-2 & Wed 12-2,

Office Number: 304-425-0064

Church e-mail: fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com

Please join us Sunday, December 6th As we celebrate *"Festival Lessons & Carols"* Christmas Cantata Directed by Dr. Ashley Vaughn, (Following our Christmas dinner)

All Church Carry in dinner will begin at 6:00 PM in the FMC Gym. Bring your favorite dish. Dinner will be followed by the Christmas Cantata, featuring the Cancel Choir, Children's Choir and Drama team.
Children's Choir rehearsal/games dates:
Wednesdays from 6:00-7:25 PM ; November 18, and Dec. 2, 9, and 16

(Additional practices during and after Sunday School hour, as needed) Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, Dec. 5TH at 4:00 PM

Prínceton Chrístmas Parade



We need people who want to spread the love of Jesus one bell at a time – with a smile and with the hope that can only come from God. Folks willing to help distribute the bells are encouraged to contact the church o office or the Children's Ministries office.

November and December

Thank you for supporting Trunk or Treat!

Thank you for the generous donations of candy for our annual Trunk or Treat outreach event this year! We couldn't offer this fun evening without the willing support of volunteers of ages. We had a full parking lot this year and lots of fun inside to ensure a great time for all!



God bless you for your support!





Dear Church family,

I would like to express my great appreciation to so many of you who have willingly provided support for both our Children's Sunday worship service and our annual Trunk or Treat outreach event this fall:

- Rick Dooley, Larry Cook, Ashley, and Jordan, and Pastor Scott for sharing their knowledge and talents while guiding us as we prepared for the worship service
- The Wednesday night Bible study for agreeing to preview and provide feedback for our "not so polished" dress rehearsal
- Elementary teachers Sandy Gay and Karen Thorn for ensuring the kids came forward in time for their parts
- Brandon Roland for agreeing to speak, as a living example, on the positive results of being raised in the church
- Our wonderful preschool moms for making it possible for their young children to participate by providing visual aids to the Creation story
- Martha and Marcia who always provide beneficial guidance
- All of the preschool and elementary children for cheerfully enduring multiple practices
- Everyone who, once again, generously gave to provide the hundreds of pieces of candy needed to enable us to open the Trunk or Treat event to the community
- All of the members who came out, despite the storm warning, provide a full parking lot(for the first time this year!) where our young visitors were greeted by friendly church members in costumes at their decorated trunks
- Brandon, Adam, and BJ Roland and Sherrie and Kristine Price for their sharing their experience in the set up and implementation of the game stations
- The youth for leading the games and serving the hotdog meal, Becky and Wes for providing leadership, and Janet Vaughn, and Patty and Jerry Flanagan for more adult support
- Amy Williams for providing a professional face painting station, Kim Bay for returning with the ever-popular cakewalk and all those who provided cakes, Nancy Clark, John and Valeda for overseeing games and giving out prizes
- Kent and Joanna Thompson and Marcia Anderson for donating scores and scores of stuffed animals to be given out as prizes
- The Johnson family for staying until both the gym and kitchen looked like nothing had gone on during the evening
- GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE! As you can see, there are many opportunities to take part in sharing Christ with our neighbors.
 Barbara



Transitions

<u>Birth</u>:

Maleko Rei Townsend

Son of Jordan Townsend and Tori Rae Craft Grandson of Todd and Ginger Craft Great-grandson of Glenna Belcher and Carolyn Craft

Amelia Pearl Adkins

October 25, 2015

October 20, 2015

Daughter of Matthew and Jessica Lynn Crabtree Adkins Granddaughter of Rev. Randy and Mrs. Rhonda Adkins

October 04, 2015

Infant Baptism:

Elliot John-Steven Bowling - Son of Michael Joseph and Stephanie Ann Hall Bowling, Brother of Adeline Campbell Bowling

Baptism:

Allison McKenna Claci Beachler - daughter of Randy Neil and Kelly Renae Musick Beachler

Robert Lee Vest Terri Michelle Browning Vest

Confirmation and Profession of Faith:

Allison McKenna Claci Beachler Sarah Jane Jessee – daughter of Gregory Brian and Jane Ellen Werness Jessee Robert Lee Vest Terri Michelle Browning Vest

Restoration of Membership:

Carol Ann Newkirk Cook

In Memory:

Joseph D. Hutchins, Jr.

Jenny Viola "Pat" Belcher

Sibyl Kellen Keesee

Rosa Woodring Haga



August 03, 2015 September 20, 2015 September 23, 2015 October 12, 2015

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College News				

Lots ahead at church for our college students in the next couple months! Please read and keep up with the events if you are a college student, the parent of a college student, or simply someone in the church family who cares for our students.....and that should be the entire church family.

The morning worship service on Sunday, November 29th will be this year's Higher Education Sunday so watch for our students on that day serving as ushers and worship leaders. Make certain to share your love with a special greeting.

On November 22nd at 3:00 PM in the church kitchen the students will be gathering with some adults to work together to cook some simple appetizers. (Printed copies of the recipes will be on hand so they can amaze their friends with their cooking skills when they stop by to watch the game or just visit.) The group will then share appetizers while having a serious and perhaps lively discussion related to some issues concerning the current political campaign. We will be scheduling some more of these kinds of events to share cooking skills, opinions about social issues, faith questions, as well as some "how to" events.

On December 26th at 10:00 AM we will meet for a free "post" Christmas Brunch at Ryan's.

ALERT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Please note that there is an <u>active</u> Sunday School class meeting in the FMC Library. The class is for College Students and others in that general age group. Join them when you are in town.





Community Thanksgiving Service

November 22

6:00pm

Followed by a time Fellowship in

Schell Hall



Library News - And Stuff - Submitted by Jerry Flanagan, Librarian

.Jerry Flanagan, Librarian

DRAWING

The winners of the drawing for September-October for a DVD called HACHI: A DOG'S TALE are: Jersey/Jaycee Pritchett, Lee Elmore, Vicki Horton, Jerry Bailes, Gail Burks and Joe Hampton.



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER DRAWING

You've heard the Christmas story time and again. Perhaps it seems there's nothing new to discover. Take another look, a closer gaze, at the details that reveal God's love in the gift of a baby who would forever change the world. Six Christian authors – Max Lucado, John Maxwell, Jack Hayford, Bill Hybels, David Jeremiah, and Rick Warren – share from a unique perspective and help you hear afresh the message God wants to whisper to your heart during this holiday season. If you would like to enter the drawing for, *ON THIS HOLY NIGHT; THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS,* place your name on a piece of paper with the words, HOLY NIGHT, and then place the paper in the offering plate or mail to, First United Methodist Church Library, P.O. Box 304, Princeton, WV 24740. You do not have to be a member to enter this drawing.

Feeding Hungry Children Fall Campaign

We are well into the new school year and the program is now reaching 94 needy children in four area schools; Princeton Primary, Mercer, Straley, and Mercer County's Early Learning Center at Silver Springs. Again this year, we will be celebrating the season of Thanksgiving by sharing our bounty with these children. If you would like to participate by contributing to the collection of food at the altar during the Thanksgiving Season, please use the list below while shopping for the children.

Kellogg's Pop-tarts Betty Crocker Fruit Roll-ups Slim Jims Kellogg Nutri-grain Bars Del Monte Fruit Cups Snack-pack Pudding Kellogg's Variety Pack Cereal Dole Jell-O with Fruit Mott's Applesauce 4 ounce Cups Raisins (1½ ounce boxes) Zip Lock Gallon Bags





November Anniversaries and Birthdays



November 02 – David & Carol Westfall(52)

- November 09 Jerry & Brenda LaRue
- November 11 Elmer & Norma Bay
- November 13 John & Carol Johnson(50)
- November 13 Randy & Mona Lester
- November 14 Cliff & Carol Arnett
- November 14 Tom & Cindy Bailey

November 15 – Jerry & Mary Ella Noel November 17 – Will & Victoria Horton November 18 – Rick & Kathy Dooley November 19 – Rick & Terry Graham November 21 – Robert & Terri Vest November 23 – Michael & Mende Lewis November 28 – Buddy & Suzy Fry

- November 01 Kathy Quesenberry
- November 02 JoAnna Fredeking November 04 – Delia BenChaabane
- November 04 Della Benchaabane November 04 – Pat Haynes
- November 04 Pat Haynes November 04 – Carol Westfall
- November 05 Marcia Anderson
- November 06 Taylor Horton
- November 07 Stewart Burks
- November 08 Vicki Horton
- November 09 Roger Topping
- November 10 Peg Tolley (95)
- November 11 Ashlie Jones
- November 12 Ashlie Collis-Keeney
- November 12 John Pack
- November 12 David Westfall
- November 13 Becky Helmick
- November 13 Brent Swecker
- November 14 Michelle Clark Hamlyn
- November 15 Todd Gillespie
- November 16 Justin Thurmer
- November 19 Elizabeth Hollifield
- November 19 Seth Price



November 20 – Elizabeth Ball November 20 – Griffin Biggs November 21 – Jerry Bailes (92) November 21 – Kim Bay November 21 – LaVerne Fields November 21 – Kara Grogan November 22 – Joanna Williams November 23 – Becky Hill November 23 – Cathy Linkous November 23 – Lindsay Price November 25 – Valeda O'Dell November 26 – Bob Henry November 26 – Brian Struble November 27 – Courtney Price November 27 – Mike Quesenberry November 28 – Mary Ashford November 28 – Raegan Biggs November 29 – Kaitlyn Artrip November 29 – Spencer Hawkins



December Anniversaries and Birthdays



December 18 – Jim & Heather Austin December 18 – Kent & Joanna Thompson December 19 – Chris & Stephanie Knight December 20 – Lynwood & Janet Compton*(57)* December 22 – David & Ellen Knight*(59)* December 22 – Stan & Kathryn Tucker December 28 – Travis & Jenny Collis December 29 – Bob & Barb Ballard



- December 02 Eleanor Williams
- December 03 Tyler Jones
- December 03 Jeff Kessinger
- December 04 Jane Walthall
- December 05 Harry Farmer
- December 06 Ryan French
- December 05 Donavin Hylton
- December 06 Jim Fleming
- December 06 Sarah Linkous

- December 06 Kelley Massie
- December 06 Peggy Wells
- December 07 Randy Beachler
- December 07 Jim Sarver
- December 08 David Lovely
- December 09 Cathy McNew
- December 09 Stewart O'Dell
- December 10 Evayne Chambers
- December 12 Mike Owen
- December 14 Randy Lester
- December 17 Griffin Jenkins
- December 18 Ruth Boyles
- December 20 Betty Musick
- December 23 Connie Myers
- December 23 Jim Bob Satterfield
- December 24 Lisa Duty
- December 24 Doris Robertson
- December 25 Elizabeth Linkous
- December 26 Kristine Price
- December 26 Ben Williams
- December 27 Tom Bailey
- December 28 Pam Coulbourne
- December 28 Dorothy Kessinger (95)
- December 30 Abbey Stafford
- December 31 Shelley Cline
- December 31 Christopher Hawkins
- December 31 Janie Sarver



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~ Church in the



In Honor and In Memory of

IN HONOR OF

Mike & Kristy McClaugherty

FOR THEIR CARE AND CONCERN FOR

Sibyl Kellen Keesee

a gift has been designated

by

Dr. Daniel W. Farley

Higher Education Grant Fund & Chancel Choir Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Marguerite Brown a gift has been designated by Linda J. Vance Feeding Hungry Children

Rosa Woodring Haga a gift has been designated by Ann Vickery Feeding Hungry Children Fund and Thread Loving Crafters (textile ministry) Sibyl Kellen Keesee a gift has been designated by Wanda S. Bradley Rebecca Caldwell Chancel Choir Fund by Ott and JoAnna M. Fredeking Feeding Hungry Children Fund

Virginia Bess Micheal a gift has been designated by Dorla S. Powers General Fund & Bereavement Fund





Remembering the Saints

November 2, 2014 – November 1, 2015 *CARL J. SHAFFER – DECEMBER 12, 2014 FARLEY EDMUND "BUD" MUSICK – JANUARY 06, 2015 EMIL "BUSTER" SMITH, JR. – MARCH 07, 2015 GAYE GOODE GUNTER – APRIL 08, 2015 KATHLEEN FULLER GREENE – APRIL 12, 2015 DANIEL RAY "DANNY" THOMAS – APRIL 17, 2015 ELWOOD EDWARD "WOOD" VAUGHN, JR. – APRIL 20, 2015 VERLA ASHWORTH SLEDGE – JULY 31, 2015 JOSEPH D. HUTCHINS, JR. – AUGUST 03, 2015 VIRGINIA BESS MICHEAL – AUGUST 22, 2015 JENNY VIOLA "PAT" BELCHER – SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 SIBYL KELLEN KEESEE – SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 ROSA WOODRING HAGA – OCTOBER 12, 2015*

What I am currently reading...continued

say, Dr. Enns has a lot to offer us. He brings some difficult things to the discussion – genocide and history, just to name a couple. But he brings something else, too. He brings peace. He brings the peace that we need in reading a book that is really reading us. He brings peace to those of us who admit the struggle we sometimes have and he could bring peace to those who struggles have left them separated from people that they love over interpreting the Word of God.

I don't do this often, and I don't think I have ever done it from this forum, but I recommend this book to you for your reading. I have a feeling I will be offering it as a discussion book for some group, somewhere. It won't be at the church, but you will be welcome to come, nonetheless. I would love to read this book with people who are not tied so closely to the church just as much as I want to discuss it with those who are.

So, if you want to read the book, I recommend it. I won't say that everyone will like it and I am sure that everyone will not completely agree with it, but I recommend it nonetheless. And if you read it and want to discuss it with me, that is even better. Just remember this – I know I can be wrong and I hope and pray everyone else realizes that they could be too. None of us, thank God, are God. I can only imagine the mess if we were!!!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Scott



Mary's Cradle Materníty & Infant Resource Center received your Mother's Day Críb Campaígn Gíft to purchase safe críbs and mattresses for famílies in need. Our famílies are greatly blessed by your gíft.

Blessings to All, Mary's Cradle

During a time like this we realize how much our friends really mean to us..... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered by the family of Virginia "Bess" Micheal.

Matthew French Chapter of DAR really appreciates you displaying the American flags for patriotic occasions.

Barbara Maxwell Margaret Ann Scott Stella Moon Susan Santon Mary Lou Brown



Barbara Wood Donna Brewster Marguerite Miller Jenny Luppold

<u>Attendance</u>

ATTENDANCE – September 2015			
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship	
09.06.2015	76	128	
09.13.2015	59	148	
09.20.2015	67	149	
09.27.2015	65	152	

ATTENDANCE – October2015			
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship	
10.04.2015	71	184	
10.11.2015	82	174	
10.18.2015	77	153	
10.25.2015	68	161	

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Christmas Eve Services

Please remember that we have two opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve again this year. The first service will be at 7:00 pm and the second at 11:00 pm. Both will be candlelight services and we will Holy Communion at each. The second service is meant to have an informal dress code – please come as you are! *Please note that many people will be inviting guests to come and be a part of our worship experience for the very first time during one of these services. Welcome everyone around you to be sure you aren't missing the very special guest God is sending us!*



Christmas Dinner – Program and Cantata

This year we are once again holding a "church wide" Christmas Party/Dinner. Sunday School classes and other groups within the church are invited to celebrate together by decorating a table and then sitting together as a group during the festivities! The dinner party will be held on Sunday, December 6th, starting at 6:00 pm. This will be followed by a combined Choir Cantata and Children's Program! It ought to be a fabulous night of fun and a great way to start the Christmas celebration as a church.

A note about the table decorations...All tables will need to be decorated by Friday, December 4th at 8:00 pm. The Southern District Clergy will be holding their Christmas dinner on the 5th and will serve as the judges of the tables!! (Don't worry...Pastor Scott will not be allowed to reveal which table is the "staff" table.)

New Years Eve Service

We will celebrate the New Year with a service of Word and Table that will begin at 7:00 pm. This is <u>NOT</u> a "come and go" service but a service where the community gathered together will celebrate communion.



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TLC - a message from Kathy Tucker

Good Morning Church in the Heart of Princeton!

Today I am going to share with you just 2 of the many projects that have been going on in the Textile Ministry.

The TM was formed only 10 months ago. At that time members began crocheting afghans, making guilts, tying fleece blankets, and sewing guillows. All of those items were dispersed and shared in various ways such as church members in nursing homes, assisted and independent living centers, a WW I veteran, individuals fighting cancer, those who suffered the loss of a loved one, and foster children at the Mercer County Home Society. The vision to come together in an entire day with members of the TM and to include additional community members, the youth, and Concord University students to make blankets and quilts for even more needy children and adults in Mercer County came to fruition yesterday in Schell Hall. It was an amazing day. The results of our latest projects are being displayed on the communion rails today. 34 individuals came together yesterday, worked furiously, enjoyed laughter, conversation, and a meal. The result is more than 45 blankets and guilts to be dispersed throughout Mercer County.

The second project you see is displayed at the altar. In the earlier months of the TM, many of the participants knew very little about crocheting. I am one of those individuals. Being a guilter, my intent was to contribute **only** quilts. One day, as we were deciding on what projects to make, our veteran crochet master, Shirley Evans, showed us a small project made of 100% cotton yarn.

It was this simple dishrag that became the tool that started our love of crocheting. This small item was the platform for us to learn the basic stitches and then more advanced stitches. From this small dishrag came the driving force to build or confidence, encouraging us to create other items and build our skills set even further.

Also, from this dishrag came the idea to rename the Textile ministry. We knew were going to donate these items to the Tender Mercies Food Pantry, but how could we get the congregation involved? Mary Ann Thomas came up with a super idea. Because food stamps cannot be used to buy household goods, she said pair it with a bottle of dishsoap. Thus the idea of collecting a bottle for each name suggestion and collecting a bottle for each vote was formed.

Today we are going to reveal the new name of the Textile Ministry. There were several names that received numerous votes. Two of the names came to the forefront. We loved the idea of an acronym like the JOY group and we loved the idea of focusing on our church theme of FUMC being the church in the Heart of Princeton. We combined these two names presented by Mary Ann Thomas and Sherrie Price. The new name is: TLC. Which stands for: Thread Loving Crafters.

Mary Ann and Sherrie can pick an item from our many finished products.





of Princeton

Advent Sermon Series - "Gifts for the Moment"

This year's Advent sermon series and weekly themes for Advent will be based upon the lectionary readings for the year and a classic story by C. S. Lewis – *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. In this tale from 1950, there are a series of gifts bestowed upon a group of children who go to the land of Narnia. These gifts become very important to the group of children as they travel this new land and prepare them for all that lies ahead. (And of course, there will be clips from the movie!)

We receive gifts from God, not just at Christmas but even during this important season of preparation and waiting known as Advent. The chart below outlines the Scripture, theme and gift from both Narnia and for us.

Gifts for the Moment - From the Bible and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Date	Scripture	Theme – Gift from God	Gift from Narnia
November 29	Luke 21:25-36	"Anxiety"	Peter's Sword
December 06	Luke 3:1-6	"Warning"	Susan's Horn
December 13	Luke 3:7-18	"Healing"	Lucy's Medicine
December 20	Hebrews 10:5-10	"Grace"	Gift Given for Edmund



The Altar Guild and Friends will meet on November 22 at 12:15 pm (immediately after worship) to decorate the Sanctuary and Chrismon Tree for Advent/ Christmas. A light lunch will be provided for those staying to help. If you are able to help, please contact Ann Graham (304.425.2953) or the church office (304.425.2283).



Activity Calendar 18 11 28

Use the graphic link above to view the

First United Methodist Church

Activity Calendar